



GRANT RECIPIENT
TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
PARKS AND RECREATION

YEAR
2008

COUNTY
LAKE

CATEGORY
LOW COST CONSTRUCTION

GRANT AWARD
\$30,000

LOCAL SHARE
\$30,000



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
1600 N 25 E
Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 983-9912
www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich

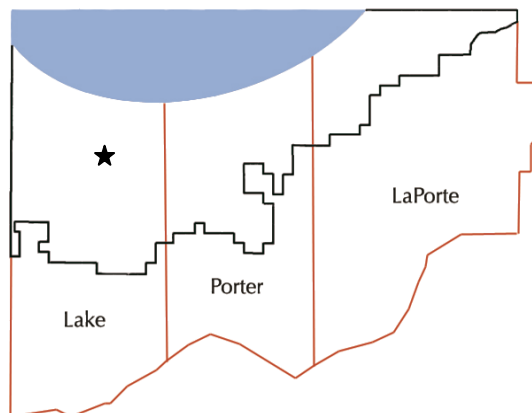


Pruzin Nature Center Upland Forest Restoration Project

The long-term goal of this project has been to rejuvenate the existing underutilized park into an active facility with a variety of programs focused on environmental and ecological restoration and education. Short-term practices included the eradication of invasive species to restore the existing wetland and prairie system, stabilization of the drainage ditches with native plant species, and clearing and seeding more than 10-acres with native wetlands and prairie plants.

The Upland Forest Restoration Project was just one component of the long-term project and also included the restoration of 5-acres of woodland. The Pruzin Nature Center was constructed to be utilized for summer day camps and other recreational programming. The result is a highly accessible and diverse natural landscape that can be used for education and enjoyable leisure time amongst a natural setting.

Pruzin Park is a 22-acre public park located in one of Merrillville's most densely populated neighborhoods and adjacent to Merrillville Intermediate School. The park has a large lake/wetland at its center and is also a starting point for the Turkey Creek tributary. Prior to project implementation, the storm water and erosion had negatively impacted the site and the lake was overgrown with invasive wetland species and inaccessible.



RESULT: Restored 5-acres of woodlands and created the Pruzin Nature Center for environmental education and recreational purposes.